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## Children in a Boat

Mardelle Fortier  
*College of DuPage*

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## Children in a Boat

Mardelle Fortier

The lake, a Persian carpet spread before us  
on which ballerinas danced their golden  
steps, light and airy. Summer wind  
brought scents of pine, tiger lilies, and  
dresses of dragonflies. Far off, the loons laughed  
at a private joke, and our boat shifted

and sped through time  
through hoary centuries  
pulled by falcons tied in blue ribbon  
and we sailed into Norwegian mountains, home of  
trolls, and watched them frolic on gnarled feet  
through an icicle night

returned peacefully to our lake, our faces  
no more wrinkled than before, our swimsuits  
no more faded. To our parents we looked  
hopelessly young, naïve, unknowing.  
We looked down at our hands  
touched by angels.